

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/787,358

Examiner

Nikita Wells

Applicant(s)

MARRIOTT, PHILIP

Art Unit

2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE received 12 May 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 8-27 and 62-69.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|--|

Nikita Wells
 Primary Examiner
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Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 05/12, 07/10, & 08/16/06.

Detailed Action

1. The Applicant filed a "Request for Continued Examination" which was received on May 12, 2006, embracing three "Information Disclosure Statements" (IDSs) presenting new documents to be considered by the Examiner. The Examiner analyzed the documents (as shown in the IDSs) and did not find any material in the documents that interferes with the disclosure of the independent claims 1, 13, and 27.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6, 8-27, and 62-69, are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, as was previously stated in the Office Action mailed out November 23, 2005:

With respect to independent claim 1, the prior art of record does not disclose nor teach a fourth aperture for transmitting the ion beam into a third evacuated chamber containing mass-to-charge ratio analyzing means disposed along a second axis, wherein the mass-to-charge ratio analyzing means is configured to mass analyze the ion beam to produce a mass spectrum of the ion beam such that both the first ion optical device and the mass-to-charge ratio analyzing means operate at the same mass to charge ratio, so as substantially to minimize the formation in the collision cell of interfering ions having the said mass to charge ratio, in combination with the remaining aspects of the claim. Since this aspect is not disclosed nor taught in the prior art of record, independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 69, which also incorporate this aspect, is deemed allowable over the prior art of record.

With respect to independent claims 13 and 27, the prior art of record does not disclose nor teach a method/apparatus mass selecting at least a portion of the ion beam at the analyte

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mass to charge ratio; transmitting at least a portion of the mass selected ion beam into the collision cell, the mass selecting step being effective substantially to minimize the formation in the collision cell of interfering ions having the analyte mass to charge ratio; receiving at least a portion of the ion beam from the collision cell at a mass analyzer; and mass analyzing the received ion beam at the same analyte mass to charge ratio as in the mass selecting step. Since this aspect is not disclosed nor taught in the prior art of record, independent claims 13 and 27, and dependent claims 14-26 and 62-68, which also incorporate this aspect are deemed allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nikita Wells whose telephone number is (571) 272-2484. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-2312. The central fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikita Wells".

Nikita Wells, Primary Examiner
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November 9, 2006